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REMARKS

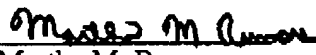
Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 10-14 are withdrawn. Claims 1-9 stand rejected.

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to conform to U.S. Patent practice. Specifically, appropriate claim identifiers have now been provided and removed text is indicated by strikethrough. Additionally, appropriate claim indicators have been provided for Claims 3 and 6 and added text is indicated via underlining.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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MMR:fd